GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:421
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Elephant Habitation
Singh Shri Sunil Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Elephant habitat areas in the Western Ghats have shrunk by more than half as per a recent survey;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
(c) the details of the fresh steps taken by the Government to devise more effective conservation strategies and monitor the efficacy of their implementation in the face of increasing habitat loss, conflicts with humans and poaching?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) No report has been received from the State Governments regarding shrinkage of elephant habitat by more than half in Western Ghats.

(c) Details of steps taken for effective conservation of elephant habitat, poaching and human elephant conflicts are given below:-

(i) Financial and technical assistance is provided to elephant range States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme-"Project Elephant".
(ii) State-wise elephant census is conducted across the country regularly at in interval of 5 years.
(iii) Eco-sensitive zones are established around protected areas.
(iv) Wildlife conservation through local participation involving Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs).
(v) Regular patrolling of elephant habitat by field staff of State Forest Departments.
(vi) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is assisting State Government in controlling poaching of wildlife and other wildlife related crimes.
(vii) Regular training of refreshers course are conducted for field staff regularly.
(viii) Erection of solar powered fences and digging of elephant proof trenches
(ix) Control of forest fires in forest areas
(x) Improvement and restoration of elephant habitat.
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